

To: GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

RE: EIS Scoping

We are residents and property owners in Whatcom County. We hear the noise and use the streets affected by the BNSF rail line on an almost daily basis. One of us is asthmatic. We conduct our personal business using roads from Seattle to Vancouver, BC but mostly in Bellingham. One impact we want included in scoping is:

Costs

Since all profits from the propose project will go to the corporations BSNF and GPT, those corporations should bear all costs of impact and mitigation as well as construction costs. The taxpayers should not.

Investigate what are the real legal obligations of the taxpayers to bear any costs of this private business project.

Sincerely,



Donna J. Mason

3686 South Bay Drive, Lake Whatcom, Whatcom County

Mail: Sedro-Woolley P.O., WA 98284



Paul L. Rosetter

Date: 10/26/12

To: GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

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Railroad Safety and Crossing Hazards

Investigate car, truck crossings and collisions with trains, railcar derailments, freight train accidents, pedestrian crossing accidents such as near Boulevard Park.

Quantify how to project possible coal train accidents along the route. Determine mitigations to prevent accidents.

Sincerely,



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Rail line congestion

Investigate impact of interference with other freight trains, Amtrak passenger, and commuter rail lines all along the coal train route.

The EIS should locate and indicate the length of sidings, double track. EIS should compare project-driven train traffic to current conditions.

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Include entire coal transportation corridor

We urgently request that you include the entire coal transportation corridor so that all communities along the rail and marine routes are given due consideration as to economic, social and environmental impacts.

Sincerely,



Donna J. Mason



Paul L. Rosetter

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Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) Emissions, Nitrogen and Sulfur Oxide Emissions

DPM less than 2.5 microns in size is the most dangerous emitted by coal trains. DPMs enter the lungs and cause serious side effects.

Indicate and quantify which portions of the route will have higher emissions output than others.

Indicate medical effects of diesel on health, given certain rates of exposure to people, animals, plants.

Identify which plants might be more susceptible along the routes. Are any on the endangered species list?

Coal trains emit nitrogen and sulfur oxides which create acid rain and have direct health impacts.

EIS should quantify emissions, list any possible mitigations.

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Marine Noise on Sea Life

Quantify noise generated by motors, props, sonar and other instruments due to increased movement of ships through the waters along coal shipping routes.

Discuss the impacts on all types of marine life and which are endangered, threatened, or not.

Discuss impacts on the endangered Orca migratory paths.

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Noise from Coal Trains

Quantify noise generated by Dba measurement at various unobstructed distances and locations along rail routes.

Discuss effect of various types of obstructions.

Discuss impact of loss of economic development on waterfront due to businesses and residents not wanting to be located in the noise area.

Discuss medical issues such as impaired cognitive development of children.

Measure effect of train noise on conversational levels and telephone conversations.

Discuss impact on existing businesses and homes located near coal train tracks.

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Coal Dust

Storage and handling coal dust at mines and coal terminals. Example: Dust from coal piles at Point Roberts terminals have been blown 5 miles away.

Quantify the pounds of dust, distance, distribution fan. Quantify populations subjected to coal dust: people, domestic, farm and wild animals, plant systems. Include inhalation of coal dust, toxicity and respiratory health effects on healthy and asthmatics. Include effect of pollution to farmlands, especially local, organic farms and the economic impact to them.

Include the impact on inland waterways, streams, lakes, rivers. Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for 90,000+ people in Bellingham and Whatcom County. Some take water directly from the lake and process it in their homes; others draw from the Bellingham water supply. What is the impact on marine environment, effect on water quality, the marine life food chain?

Include the toxicity of metals in soil from coal dust. Include the impact of dust flying of coal piles stored outside, as well as during loading and unloading.

In transporting, identify potential amount of coal dust projected by identifying the factors that contribute to the raising of the dust, example: speed of train, track condition, areas of high winds.

Discuss possible mitigation measures which have been used and report on effectiveness and deleterious effects of the mitigation measures.

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Paul L. Rosetter

Date: 10/24/12

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We are residents and property owners in Whatcom County. We hear the noise and use the streets affected by the BNSF rail line on an almost daily basis. One of us is asthmatic. We conduct our personal business using roads from Seattle to Vancouver, BC but mostly in Bellingham. One impact we want included in scoping is:

Blocked Traffic including Blocked Waterfront Development

Identify which on-grade intersections would be crossed by the trains and should be shown on an accompanying map.

What are the number of times per day a train will cross and block an intersection and for what duration? Compare that to the baseline current blockage.

Identify increased automobile commute times caused by backups at crossings. Identify increased ferry backups and delays.

If an intersection is impacted differently than others, they need to be individually discussed separately regarding duration.

Indicate traffic crossing counts at each intersection.

Identify any critical origins or destinations, i.e. fire stations, hospitals, care facilities, hazardous sites, etc.

Indicate the economic impact of those family wage businesses that will not locate at the waterfront because of the coal trains.

Indicate the economic impact of delayed delivery of goods to businesses.

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Spontaneous Combustion

Coal, such as from Powder River Basin, has a tendency to spontaneously combust on trains, in piles, on land or ships.

Disclose the number of incidences, locations, types of coal and conditions.

Indicate various mitigation measures that will prevent combustion.

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